

PATENT

Application No. 09/505,361
Attorney Docket No.: 99-025CLAIM AMENDMENT - CLEAN VERSION

31 47. (AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a processor, and

a memory that stores a program for directing the processor;

the processor being operative with the program to:

61 identify a product associated with a first rebate, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;

determine a second rebate associated with the product;

offer to a consumer the second rebate in exchange for the first rebate;

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entity jc
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62 obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by the consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate; and

issue the second rebate to the consumer.

40 48. (AMENDED) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

identify a product associated with a first rebate, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;

determine a second rebate associated with the product;

offer to a consumer the second rebate in exchange for the first rebate;

62 obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by the consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate; and

issue the second rebate to the consumer.

49. (AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a processor, and

a memory that stores a program for directing the processor;

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the processor being operative with the program to:

identify a first rebate associated with a product, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;

determine an alternative rebate associated with the product;

accept input indicative of a selection of the alternative rebate; and if selected,

obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by a consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate; and

issue the alternative rebate to the consumer.

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50. (AMENDED) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

identify a first rebate associated with a product, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;

determine an alternative rebate associated with the product;

accept input indicative of a selection of the alternative rebate; and if selected,

obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by a consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate; and issue the alternative rebate to the consumer.

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51. (AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a processor, and

a memory that stores a program for directing the processor;

the processor being operative with the program to:

identify a product;

identify a first rebate and a second rebate associated with the product, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;

receive an acceptance of the second rebate from a consumer;

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obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by a consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate;

issue the second rebate to the consumer; and
receive a request from the consumer to redeem the second rebate.

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52. (AMENDED) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

identify a product;
identify a first rebate and a second rebate associated with the product, the first rebate being redeemable by mailing a predetermined document associated with the first rebate to a first entity associated with the first product;
receive an acceptance of the second rebate from a consumer;
obtain the predetermined document, surrendered by a consumer at a retailer terminal operated by a second entity, such that the consumer can no longer redeem the first rebate;
issue the second rebate to the consumer; and
receive a request from the consumer to redeem the second rebate.